

*His Character, Court, and
Chroniclers* 315

from the old maps, and from empirical
bases to
produce charts superior to all previous
ones; yet
the maps are naturally not true even
in the case
of Southern Italy itself, and become
hopeless
farther north.

But in the *Book of Roger* itself was set
down
everything that could be garnered,
ranging from
accurate details of well-known places
to fables
about distant lands, poetic descriptions
of towns,
historical notices, strange pieces of
natural history.
It is an interesting mediaeval
travellers' book, full
of fact and fable.

In the first *Clima* is Africa "where
there are
blacks who go all naked and marry
without dowry
or legitimacy* There do not exist
human beings
who give birth to a greater number of
children,"

There are the Beghamiens, who are
black Berbers,
burned by the sun which has changed
the colour
of their skins. In Nubia the women
are of
ravishing beauty, thin lips, little
mouths, white
teeth, flowing and not crisp hair; no
women are so
much desired as slaves, Socotra is
famous for its
aloes;

the greater' part of the inhabitants are
Christians
and this is the reason, When Alexander
had con-
quered the King of the Persians and his
fleets had

subdued the Indian Isles, his master,
Aristotle,
advised him to discover the isle which
produced aloes,
So, after conquering the other Indian
islands, Alex-
ander went from the Indian sea to that of
Oman, and
so at last to Socotra, At Aristotle's
advice he